(d) if so, the Government's assessment thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The three-stage nuclear power programme based on indigenous uranium and thorium has huge potential for nuclear power generation. The potential of first stage using natural uranium is about 10000 MWe and this capacity is planned to be set up by the year 2020. The second stage, which uses spent fuel from the first stage after reprocessing has a power generation potential upto 500000 MWe. The first 500 MWe Fast Breeder Reactor is currently under construction and this will be followed by series of FBRs. Reaching a total nuclear capacity of 30000 MWe would need setting up of a number of fast breeder reactors in the second stage. The three stage programme is robust and is on course.

(c) and (d) International cooperation in nuclear power is needed to add significant nuclear power capacity at a fast pace, as additionality to the indigenous programme. The current discussion with several other countries to open civil nuclear cooperation is a part of the effort of the Government to access international technology/fuel. The total nuclear power capacity that can be added through this route depends on the growth of nuclear power programme, other energy options and the required energy mix.

Bilateral agreement to get civil nuclear technology

†1786. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made by Government to sign a bilateral agreement to get civil nuclear technology and related fuel from nuclear power countries other than America;

(b) if so, the time by when this effort was made and the countries involved therein; and

(c) the reaction of the concerned country after such efforts were made by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) We have been also discussing civil nuclear co-operation with Russia, France and other potential countries for a number of years. While the discussions have been positive, realization of actual cooperation is dependent on Nuclear Suppliers Group exemption for India.

Setting up of nuclear power plant in M.P.

†1787. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to Central Government to install an Atomic power plant in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has assured to install the plant by sanctioning it expeditiously during his visit to Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, by when it would be implemented and the present status of the same?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.